CHURCH-BUILDING INTELLIGENCE, &c.

Chester Diocesan Church Building Society.—The annual meeting of the Chester Diocesan Church-Building Society was held on Monday week at the Blue Coat Hospital, and was attended by a large number of the clergy of the Church of England. Amongst those present were the Rev. Chancellor Raikes, the Rev. Rector Brooks, the Rev. Rector Campbell, the Rev. Dr. Tattershall, the Rev. Dr. Byrth, the Hon. and Rev. Horace Powys, the Rev. Messrs. Nolan, Parry, Ewbank, May, Gunning, Bold, North, Higgins, Stewart, Jones, Hesketh, Marshall, &c. &c. About half-past ten o'clock the chair was taken by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Chester. His lordship briefly opened the proceedings, and the Rev. C. Lawrence, one of the secretaries, then read the report, from which it appeared that the sum of 1,040*l.* had been granted to two localities during the year. The incumbent of Oldham had, a second time, brought the necessities of his cure under consideration, by stating that there existed a population of 60,000 souls, with church accommodation only for 7,500, and accordingly grants of 500*l.* had been made to each of the three prospective churches that were to be erected in Oldham. The committee had also acceded to an application made by the incumbent of Bleakley, to enlarge and refit an old church upon an extensive plan, and so as to render it capable of affording a large number of free sittings. These formed the grants of the year. The committee, after pressing upon all the friends of the Church the duty of co-operating in a duty so obvious and excellent, stated that they intended to hold their quarterly meetings in Liverpool in future, and that at those meetings applications for aid would be received. The appeal which the Bishop had made to the clergy during the past year, had resulted in the collection of a sum of 2,000*l.* and upwards, which would recruit the resources of the society. The report concluded by stating that a benevolent individual had tendered a sum of 500*l.* to the society, provided a further sum of 3,000*l.* should be raised from the public; but that as only 1,000*l.* of the 3,000*l.* had been collected, the offer could not, as yet, be accepted. The treasurer then read a statement of the accounts, from which it appeared that the receipts for the year, including a balance from the previous one, had been 2,040*l.*, that there was a balance of 5*l.* 11*s.*, that the outstanding accounts were 3,100*l.*, and that there was an available surplus of 2,0 0*l.* for the liabilities of the society. The report was adopted upon the motion of the Rev. Rector Brooks. The officers for the ensuing year were then appointed, after which the Rev. Chancellor Raikes proposed a resolution (which was adopted *nem. con.*) to the effect, that the meeting considered that it would be a reasonable enlargement of the society's sphere of usefulness if it were permitted to make grants for the restoration of old churches, where the additional accommodation gained should be equivalent to the building of a new church, but that the sum granted should never exceed the one fourth of the total expense. Upon the motion of the venerable Archdeacon Rushton, the meeting passed a vote of thanks to the Bishop, which his lordship acknowledged, and the meeting then formed itself into a committee for educational purposes.—*Liverpool Journal*

Church Extension.—A meeting of the Incorporated Society for Promoting the Enlargement, Building, and Repairing of Churches and Chapels, was held at their chambers in St. Martin's place, on Monday week, the Lord Bishop of London in the chair. There were also present the Bishops of Bangor, Llandaff, Norwich, Hereford, and Lichfield; the Revs. the Dean of Chichester, Dr. Spry, Dr. Shepherd, J. Jennings, H. H. Norris, B. Harrison; Messrs. F. H. Dickinson, M.P., Edward Badeley, William Davis, Newell, Connop, J. S. Salt, William Cotton. The reports of the sub-committee having been read by the Rev. Mr. Bowdler, the secretary, the meeting proceeded to examine the cases referred to their consideration, and finally voted various grants of money towards building additional churches or chapels. The population of the parishes now assisted is 273,984 souls, and the accommodation provided for them in 40 churches and chapels is 40,824 sittings, of which 9,334 are free; by the erection of seven additional churches, the rebuilding of one existing church, and the enlargement, &c., of seven others, it is intended to add 4,333 seats to this insufficient provision of church-room, including free-sittings for 4,195 persons. Certificates of the completion of new churches, and the enlargement, &c. of existing churches in several parishes were examined and approved, and orders were issued to the treasurer to pay the amount of the grant awarded in each case. The population of these parishes is 46,595 persons, for whom church accommodation to the extent of 4,684 sittings only were provided previously to the execution of the works towards which the society's grants were voted, and including only 1,374 free-sittings; 2,537 seats are now added to that number, 2,157 of which are free. Since the last meeting, forms of application for aid from this society have been issued to eighteen applicants, to enable them to submit their cases to the consideration of the board, and five of these applications are for assistance towards building additional churches in populous places. The treasurer reported that a legacy of 300*l.*, free of duty, has been bequeathed to this society by the late Mr. James Hurst, of Stamford-baron, Northamptonshire.

New Stained Glass Window, Bishopstone Church.—A very beautiful stained glass window, by Mr. Warrington, of London, has just been erected in Bishopstone church, at the cost of the rector of the parish. The window is of the style called decorated. In the upper part, containing the tracery, are the emblems of the four Evangelists, as described in Revelations, chap. iv. v. 6, viz., the angel, lion, calf, and eagle, bearing scrolls inscribed "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come;" and in the centre the Holy Lamb and banner, inscribed "Ecce Agnus Dei." The principal openings consist of intersections of colours, interlaced and intermixed with quaint foliage, after the practice and style of the fourteenth century. In the midst are medallion subjects of the principal events of the life of our Lord, formed by the various shapes caused by the general pattern and designs. The subjects in the centre opening are the Baptism, Crucifixion, and Resurrection; those of the side openings, the Agony in the Garden, the Adoration of the Magi, the Rebuke of Peter for drawing his sword, and the Last Supper. There is a calm and subdued tone of colouring through the whole of this window, assimilating it as nearly as is possible to the best specimens of the ancients, in whose finest works we shall observe that however deep and rich in hue, the ruby is the only colour allowed to show itself in unclouded brilliancy. This observation has been carefully attended to in the present instance, and the effect is chaste and solemn, gaining more and more upon the eye as we become accustomed to it, instead of being tawdry and flaunting, first dazzling, then distressing the beholder by its glitter.—*Hereford Times.*

Chichester Cathedral.—A new window has just been put up in the cathedral church of the diocese of Chichester, the expense of which has been defrayed by subscription. The three ancient quatrefoils in the central light are occupied by designs representing the appearance of the burning bush to Moses, the Baptism of Christ, and the Descent of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. The Resurrection occupies the northern side light, and the Ascension the southern. Emblems of the four evangelists are placed in the upper and in the lower parts of the side lights.

Opening of Tickton Church.—This neat structure was opened on Tuesday last, when, the day being fine, a considerable number of persons from Beverley and the neighbourhood were present. The prayers were read in a very impressive manner by the Rev. C. Gerrad, M.A., after which the Rev. J. King, M.A., of Hull, preached an appropriate sermon, which was listened to with marked attention. The choir of singers belonging to the minster were in attendance and sung with great effect.—*Hull Packet.*

His Royal Highness Prince Albert has sent a donation of 10*l.*, the Earl of Ripon 10*l.*, the Earl of Eldon 20*l.*, to the committee for the restoration of the Round Church at Cambridge.

RAILWAY INTELLIGENCE.

The South-Eastern Railway.—The following is the official report from Major-General Pasley, Inspector-General of Railways, to the Board of Trade, as to the safety and stability of the South-Eastern Railway:—

Board of Trade, Whitehall, Feb. 1.

My Lords,—On Tuesday, the 30th, and yesterday the 31st ult., I inspected with great attention the extension of the South-Eastern Railway from Folkestone to Dover, which, combined with my previous inspections of the tunnels, viaducts, and sea-walls of this portion of railway whilst in progress, enables me to make a most favourable report of the whole of the great works comprising it, which are highly creditable to Mr. Cubitt, the engineer-in-chief, and to his assistants.

The extraordinary and novel character of this portion of railway, which has been partly conducted along the bottom of a lofty range of chalk cliffs, with the sea either near to or bordering upon part of the line, whilst the rest of it has been led through tunnels cut in the same high ground, induced many persons to believe that it would be either impossible to complete this portion of railway according to Mr. Cubitt's original plan, or that, if finished, it would be liable to be overwhelmed by the fall of the cliff above it, or to be destroyed by the irruption of the sea.

Having examined the whole of the ground above the railway with the greatest attention in order to discover the unsound parts of the chalk cliff, if any, which may be known by cracks at the surface, I am of opinion that there is not the smallest ground for apprehension in respect to the first alleged source of danger, because the two tunnels cut through the chalk have been formed in the soundest parts of it, with a considerable height or thickness of solid chalk, not only above, but between them and the sea, so that few and very small portions of unsound chalk which I observed at the extreme summit of the cliffs, 300 or 400 feet above those tunnels, can do no possible harm in falling, as the fragments will slide along the surface of the solid chalk below them and then roll over into the sea, which has in fact occurred on two or three occasions since these tunnels were formed, without doing the slightest injury. But opposite to the open parts of the railway all the unsound portions of the chalk have been removed with the greatest care, and the surface cut to slopes more or less regular, according to circumstances, having a base nowhere less than three-fourths of their height, and in many parts much flatter; whilst the earth, which in some few places may be as much as ten feet in thickness over the chalk, has been cut to a slope of two to one, and is every where of sound quality. In this essential process immense masses of chalk were thrown down, partly by the skilful use of gunpowder, by which the company was supposed to have saved about 7,000*l.*, and partly by the labour of workmen continually employed; so that there is not a single crack now to be seen at or near the summit; and the stability of sound chalk, even when standing perpendicularly, or nearly so, is well known by which a considerable part of the town of Dover itself, being immediately under part of the same range of high chalk cliffs, from which no slips have taken place or been apprehended, is a striking example.

In respect to the second alleged cause of danger, the two short portions of railway formed along the beach, each bounded by projecting head-lands of chalk, have been protected, one by a massy concrete sea-wall, similar to that of Brighton, with foundations of brick and cement, and substantial counterforts, and the other by a strong timber viaduct on piles driven into the solid chalk below, both which are of a sufficient height above high water to prevent them from being injured by the sea, at the same time that the tides have no tendency to wash away the beach in those small portions of the coast.

Upon the whole I have great pleasure in assuring your lordships, not only that the railway itself is in a perfectly safe and efficient state, but that no part of the works are exposed to the smallest danger, either from the irruptions of the sea or from the fall of the cliffs; though it was natural for the public to

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